



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 26th day of June, 2003

Essential Air Service at

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Served: July 1, 2003

Docket OST-2003-14626

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of SkyWest Airlines, Inc., d/b/a Delta Connection (SkyWest), at West Yellowstone, Montana, for an additional 30 days, through [August 1, 2003](#).

Background

On March 3, 2003, SkyWest filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized service at West Yellowstone, effective June 1, 2003. By Order 2003-5-9, May 6, 2003, the Department prohibited SkyWest from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through July 2, 2003, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service.

On June 1, 2003, SkyWest became eligible for compensation for its forced service. By Order 2003-5-29, May 29, 2003, the carrier and Department staff agreed to a subsidy rate of \$418,488, to be paid while the carrier-selection case is processed. However, this case will not be completed by the end of the current hold-in period. Thus, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend SkyWest's service obligation at West Yellowstone for an additional 30 days, or until suitable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require SkyWest Airlines, Inc., to maintain essential air service at West Yellowstone, Montana, consisting of two daily nonstop or one-stop round trips to Salt Lake City, for an additional 30-day period through [August 1, 2003](#), or until suitable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;¹

¹ In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend SkyWest's service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until its proposed service actually begins.

2. We direct SkyWest to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;

3. Docket OST-2003-14626, will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and Airport Manager of West Yellowstone, and SkyWest Airlines.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten (10) days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

RANDALL D. BENNETT

Director

Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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<http://dms.dot.gov>*